

From: Josh Koenig
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:46am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I find the DOJ's proposed final settlement on the Microsoft matter a step in the right direction, but lacking in many key areas. I am writing as provided under the Tunney act that you might consider my opinion as one computer-using citizen of these United States of America.

The DOJ's proposed final resolution should include specific measures which insure that Microsoft raises no artificial barriers against non-Microsoft operating systems which implement the APIs needed to run application programs written for Windows. This will allow non-Microsoft programmers to write alternative middleware for other operating systems that will operate Windows-based applications. An example of this is WINE for Linux.

By not providing some protection for software vendors engaged in making Windows-compatible operating systems, the DOJ is missing a key opportunity to encourage competition in the Intel-compatible operating system market.

Additionally, file-formats (e.g. Microsoft Word) should be publicly documented so to allow easier exchanging of documents and content between platforms. This is one measure that can only serve to help the end user by allowing more applications to interoperate on the same documents.

A host of other helpful and pro-competition suggestions can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>

cheers
-josh

I love America, and I mean that in the fullest possible sense. This country is grounded in participatory democracy. Citizens must educate and involve themselves in the affairs of government. Be a citizen, not just a consumer.